

SESSION 7

DISCUSSION

Mr. Moore said that C.S.I.R.O.'s experience in the control of blackberry using 2,4,5-T was similar to that in Victoria; one spraying sometimes gave a complete kill although, usually, two and sometimes three treatments were necessary. Reponse within the same species varied according to previous treatment; plants previously cut, burnt or sprayed with arsenic were more difficult to kill, possibly because of the development of lateral roots. Early work with 2,4,5-T amine had resulted in complete failure. Mr. Green reported an instance where 2,4,5-T amine had been the only compound to give a satisfactory kill of blackberry; this had been over a very limited period in January and February.

Mr. Moore said that good kills of sweet briar had been obtained with 2,4,5-T ester at 2 lb. per acre for the first treatment, followed by a second application at 1 lb. per acre. The butyl ester had been as effective as the low volatile esters.

It was reported that hormone type herbicides were not effective against boxthorns. Mr. Greenham pointed out that arsenical compounds, particularly arsenates, were translocated laterally in plants to a greater extent than 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T, and therefore might be more useful for treating woody species with horizontal root systems.

Mr. Green said that basal spraying with 5% or 6% 2,4,5-T ester in oil had given good control of boxthorn. At 2% the same preparation failed to kill. The usual method of control was to pull out with a chain, and spray the roots or regrowth with arsenic.

Satisfactory control of bracken fern was obtained in New South Wales by mowing three times a year combined with pasture improvement. Chemical treatment only killed top growth and was no more effective than mowing.

Mr. Nelson Johnston referred to the problem of Mallee suckers and said that 2,4,5-T ester and mixed 2,4-D/2,4,5-T esters at 0.4% killed narrow-leaved mallee (E. diversifolia), but had been only about 40% effective on broad-leaved mallee (E. incrassata) in the south-east of South Australia. The regrowth on the remaining 60% was eaten by stock and was controlled in this way.

The problem of weed growth, particularly Acacia and Eucalyptus regrowth, in young plantations of Pinus radiata was discussed. No successful method of chemical control by selective herbicides was known.